

DECISION RECORD AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

(EA Number OR-134-04-EA-006)

(State of Washington-Department of Transportation WSDOT)
(Free-use Mineral Material Permit FU-W-478 – WAOR 59649-01)

A. Recommendation

It is my recommendation that the applicants proposed action (preferred alternative) in the following environmental assessment be adopted. This action would allow the State of Washington-Department of Transportation (North Central Region Office), to utilize this mineral material site as a source of sand and gravel resources (free-use permit) for the State Highway 97 (SR-97) overlay project located between Tonasket and Riverside, Washington. I further recommend that the permit be issued for a term of ten years, with the option of renewal. The permit should be subject to the mine/reclamation plan submitted by WSDOT for interim reclamation/revegetation of the site, mitigation listed in EA Number OR-134-04-EA-006, and permit stipulations.

B. Rationale

Pursuant to the Act of July 31, 1947 as amended (Mineral Material Act) provides for the disposal of mineral materials from public lands managed by BLM. The Secretary of the Interior has discretion to permit the free use of mineral materials to State Agencies, such as WSDOT. Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 directs the Secretary of the interior to manage public lands under the principles of multiple use. The site has been intermittently been utilized by WSDOT as a source of gravel for many years, although no formal authorization was previously issued by BLM.

No archaeological, cultural, or paleontological sites were documented during field inventories of the site. No sensitive, threatened, or endangered plant or animal species were inventoried or are known to occur on the site where disturbance associated with gravel pit operations are proposed.

The free-use permit only covers a portion (approx. 10 acres) of the entire parcel (40 acre) of BLM public land that has been designated as the Riverside Community Pit (WAOR 59649). The WSDOT will conduct interim reclamation of the site. After final mining of the mineral material community pit, reclamation of the site will consist of reapplying topsoil and planting with native grass species that will provide soil stabilization and food and cover for wildlife.

C. Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

Through this environmental assessment, the Bureau of Land Management, Wenatchee Field Office, has analyzed the alternatives for the subject State of Washington-Department of Transportation (North Central Region) Free Use Permit (FUP-W-478) to mine and crush sand and gravel and temporarily set up a asphalt batch plant within BLM's Riverside Community Pit (WAOR 59649). Based on the following considerations, no significant impacts to the quality of human environment are anticipated.

- ☐ The analysis did not reveal any significant adverse impacts to society as a whole, the

affected region, the affected interests, or the locality.

- ☐ Public health or safety will not be affected.
- ☐ The proposed action does not violate federal, state, or local law requirement regarding flood plains, wild and scenic rivers, prime or unique farmlands, or known paleontological resources.
- ☐ The proposed action will not result in cumulative significant adverse impacts to the important and relevant resource values of the area.
- ☐ There will be no adverse impacts to cultural or historical resources.
- ☐ The proposed action will not significantly affect endangered or threatened species or critical habitat as determined under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

I have reviewed the environmental assessment (EA) and have determined that the proposed action and stipulations are adequate. Consideration has been given to all applicable resource values and the proposed action will not have any significant effects on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

D. Decision

The above recommendations are approved as the decision of the Bureau of Land Management of the proposed action.

S/ James F. Fisher
Field Manager, Wenatchee Resource Area

October 18, 2004
Date